



ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP HOW EDUCATION MADE COMPUTERS PERSONAL

TUE, JUNE 7, 2016, 15 – 20 pm
LEUPHANA CAMPUS, ROOM TBA.
EDT: 9 am – 14 pm, PDT: 6 – 11 am

Stream: <http://avmstream.leuphana.de/>

Discussion: live via facebook group posts
email questions to LLOHW@hcle.org

Organized by Liza Loop, LO*OP Center
& Jeremias Herberg, Leuphana

Contributors

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Since the 1960s California's Counterculturalists considered both computers and education as tools for change. They lamented how computers are "used to control people instead of to free them" and created educational and technological visions "to change all that" (Peoples Computer Company 1972). They came up with *community memories*, *personal computers* and *virtual communities*. Computer technologies, by being modeled after educational aspirations, became *personal* and *social*.

At the workshop, some of the most involved contemporary witnesses meet young scholars to revise a techno-determinist genealogy of computers and education. Together they reflect the limits and benefits of reviving alternative computer pedagogies within our digital cultures.

LEE FELSENSTEIN

Lee is an engineer involved in the creation of several countercultural movements and computer technologies. In 1963/1964 he was one of the few technologists in the Free Speech Movement at University of California, Berkeley, where he later created the famous "Community Memory". In 1975, Lee co-founded the Homebrew Computer Club, an open community of hobby engineers that co-created the first marketable personal computers. Among Lee's creations is the Sol, and subsequently the Sol-20 released in 1974, and the Osborne 1 in the early 1980's, one of the first portable computers. Lee will reflect on the educational underpinnings of computer engineering.

LIZA LOOP

Liza is one of the first educators involved in California's mid 1970s computer hobby scenes. In 1975 she founded the second public access point to personal computers outside of museums, a storefront meeting place aptly called Learning Options*Open Portal. LO*OP Center offered programming classes for children and adults, and rented unstructured time for learning about or with computers. In 1978, she was contracted by Atari to write the user's manuals for the Atari 400 and 800 computers, major competitors in the emerging PC market.

Liza will investigate the pedagogic implications of manuals.

HOWARD RHEINGOLD

Howard is one of the first to ever point out the educational values of digital networks. Since the early 1980s, he experimented with how minds meet technology through computers. On that basis he wrote "Tools for Thought: The History and Future of Mind-Amplifiers". In 1985, he became involved in the WELL, a "computer conferencing" system and, drawing from that experience, he coined the term "virtual community".

Howard discusses the connection of Do-It-Yourself teaching and technology.



Courtesy of Lee Felsenstein